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I-196/Baldwin Drive Project Restoration Recommended to State Transportation Commission

Kuipers Applauds Administration's Decision to Move Project Forward

(LANSING) – Residents of Kent County may soon see the I-196/Baldwin Drive construction project restored after Gov. Granholm today recommend the project's reinstatement to the State Transportation Commission, Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, announced today.

"This is good news for the residents of Kent County," Kuipers said. "The area is attracting new and diverse businesses, which are working to fuel economic growth in Michigan. The step toward providing adequate road infrastructure for this growth is a step in the right direction"

Earlier this year, Gov. Granholm and the Michigan Department of Transportation announced they were deferring 34 capacity road improvement projects across the state, including the I-196/Baldwin Drive interchange. The administration's willingness to recommend the project's reinstatement came following intense budget negotiations between the Governor and Legislative leadership.

Environmental clearance on the Baldwin Drive connector is underway and is scheduled to be completed in 2004, with the design phase to begin in 2006. Some \$2.5 million has been allocated to the project.

"I am pleased to announce that this project is anticipated to move forward as scheduled," Kuipers said. "The safety concerns and business development issues cited by the Kent County community have been heard and resolved."